



Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Washburn County

County characteristics

- 810 square miles
- 66 streams totaling 331 miles including 100 miles of trout stream which includes the Namekagon and Totagatic Rivers, known for their wild beauty.
- 961 lakes and flowages totaling 30,201 acres
- One of the largest cool water hatcheries in the country providing walleye and muskellunge, and northern pike throughout the state.



State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

Manage 6,079 acres of state land including Beaver Brook, Bean Brook and Sawyer Creek Fish and Wildlife Areas. Fish and wildlife staff assist the county in managing fish and wildlife resources on the 148,800 acre Washburn County Forest.

Locate DNR properties at: http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html



Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- 1 Wildlife Biologist and 1 Wildlife Technician; 1 Fisheries biologist and one technician;
- Thirteen full and part time staff at Governor Thompson Hatchery; 2 Conservation Wardens, 2 Customer Service Representatives (1/2 vacancy)
- Office, 810 West Maple Street, Spooner, 54801
- Wildlife and Fishery Staff also serve Burnett County.

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Provide 4 handicapped accessible shore fishing pier sites.
- Manage 17 put and grow trout fisheries on the county forest.
- Manage DNR land for wildlife and fishery habitat and related public recreation. Diverse habitats are created and maintained with timber sales, prairie seedings, prescribed burns, in-stream habitat structures and flowages. Public land boundaries are posted, and public access sites and parking areas are maintained.
- Control and monitor exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife, leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, black locust, and honeysuckle to assure quality native habitat.
- Monitor and manage for local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, trumpeter swans, ruffed grouse, woodcock, furbearers, small mammals, deer, frogs, turtles, grassland birds, and raptors such as eagles, ospreys, goshawks, owls and red shoulder hawks.
- Conduct lake and stream surveys to monitor fish populations.
- Acquire additional land from willing sellers within approved wildlife and fishery area boundaries, increasing the natural resource value of each property.
- Assist private landowners in conjunction with federal, state and county land management programs.
- Respond to public inquiries about wildlife behavior, damage and nuisance.

Activities continued...

- Monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts, work to keep habitats intact and functioning for fish and wildlife.
- Provide over 75 wildlife and fish educational programs for schools, conservation organizations, lake associations, civic groups and the general public annually.
- Wardens write monthly newspaper articles for two newspapers in Washburn County.
- Wardens worked with local volunteers and boy scouts on a lake clean up. Tires, bottles, many cans, barrels and other assorted trash were all removed from the lake.
- Wardens work each year with local middle school students on a fun day for the kids. A Warden presentation is given at the school. Students are then bussed to the Ranger Station where they stock trout in the kids' fishing pond.
- Wardens conduct various hunting, fishing and trapping investigations issuing over 200 civil and criminal citations for fish and game violations.

Washburn County Conservation Snapshots

9 DNR maintained boat landings
700 acres of waterfowl flowages
148,800 acres of County Forest
9 Big game registration stations
14 Wildlife and fisheries properties



Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

- 253,000 walleye fingerlings
- 1,500 lake sturgeon
- 880 muskellunge fingerlings
- 35,000 trout (30,000 small fingerlings for a new trout pond program)

County Success Stories

- Access and boat launch facilities on most county lakes in partnership with local units of government.
- Acquired and developed access to McKinley Lake.
- Acquired a 450-acre cranberry marsh in partnership with WI-DOT to restore wetland types and enhance trout habitat on Beaver Brook Wildlife Area.
- Wildlife staff provides input on county forest plans and helps develop wildlife projects on the Washburn County Forest.

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs; Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

Want to Learn More? Go to dnr.wi.gov/invest

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